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Focus ON READING

Vocabulary

READING
COMPREHENSION

The Pigman

Paul Zindel

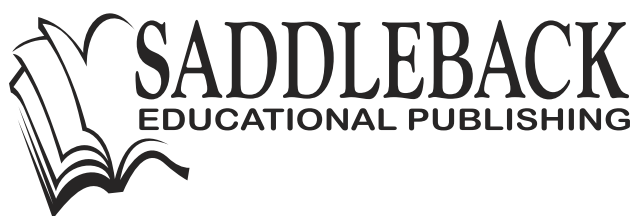
ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Reproducible Activities

Focus **ON READING**

The Pigman

ROSEMARY SMITH



Three Watson
Irvine, CA 92618-2767
Web site: www.sdlback.com

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Introduction/Classroom Management

WELCOME TO *FOCUS ON READING*

Focus on Reading literature study guides are designed to help all students comprehend and analyze their reading. Many teachers have grappled with the question of how to make quality literature accessible to all students. Students who are already avid readers of quality literature are motivated to read and are familiar with prereading and reading strategies. However, struggling readers frequently lack basic reading skills and are not equipped with the prior knowledge and reading strategies to thoroughly engage in the classroom literature experience.

Focus on Reading is designed to make teachers' and students' lives easier! How? By providing materials that allow all students to take part in reading quality literature. Each *Focus on Reading* study guide contains activities that focus on vocabulary and comprehension skills that students need to get the most from their reading. In addition, each section within the guide contains a before-reading **Focus Your Reading** page containing tools to ensure success: **Vocabulary Words to Know**, **Things to Know**, and **Questions to Think About**. These study aids will help students who may not have the prior knowledge they need to truly comprehend the reading.

USING *FOCUS ON READING*

Focus on Reading is designed to make it easy for you to meet the individual needs of students who require additional reading skills support. Each *Focus on Reading* study guide contains teacher and student support materials, reproducible student activity sheets, an end-of-book test, and an answer key.

- **Focus on the Book**, a convenient reference page for the teacher, provides a brief overview of the entire book including a synopsis, information about the setting, author data, and historical background.
- **Focus Your Knowledge**, a reference page for students, is a whole-book, prereading activity designed to activate prior knowledge and immerse students in the topic.

The study guide divides the novel into 6 manageable sections to make it easy to plan classroom time. Five activities are devoted to each section of the novel.

Before Reading

- **Focus Your Reading** consists of 3 prereading sections:

Vocabulary Words to Know lists and defines 10 vocabulary words students will encounter in their reading. Students will not have to interrupt their reading to look up, ask for, or spend a lot of time figuring out the meaning of unfamiliar words. These words are later studied in-depth within the lesson.

Things to Know identifies terms or concepts that are integral to the reading but that may not be familiar to today's students. This section is intended to "level the playing field" for those students who may not have much prior knowledge about the time period, culture, or theme of the book. It also gets students involved with the book, increasing interest before they begin reading.

Questions to Think About helps students focus on the main ideas and important details they should be looking for as they read. This activity helps give students a *purpose* for reading. The goal of these guiding questions is to build knowledge, confidence, and comfort with the topics in the reading.

During Reading

- **Build Your Vocabulary** presents the 10 unit focus words in the exact context of the book. Students are then asked to write their own definitions and sentences for the words.
- **Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice** offers 10 multiple-choice, literal comprehension questions for each section.
- **Check Your Understanding: Short Answer** contains 10 short-answer questions based on the reading.

After Reading

- **Deepen Your Understanding** is a writing activity that extends appreciation and analysis of the book. This activity focuses on critical-thinking skills and literary analysis.
- **End-of-Book Test** contains 20 multiple-choice items covering the book. These items ask questions that require students to synthesize the information in the book and make inferences in their answers.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Focus on Reading is very flexible. It can be used by the whole class, by small groups, or by individuals. Each study guide divides the novel into 6 manageable units of study.

This literature comprehension program is simple to use. Just photocopy the lessons and distribute them at the appropriate time as students read the novel.

You may want to reproduce and discuss the **Focus Your Knowledge** page before distributing the paperbacks. This page develops and activates prior knowledge to ensure that students have a grounding in the book before beginning reading. After reading this whole-book prereading page, students are ready to dive into the book.

The **Focus Your Reading** prereading activities are the keystone of this program. They prepare students for what they are going to read, providing focus for the complex task of reading. These pages should be distributed before students actually begin reading the corresponding section of the novel. There are no questions to be answered on these pages; these are for reference and support during reading. Students may choose to take notes on these pages as they read. This will also give students a study tool for review before the **End-of-Book Test**.

The **Focus Your Reading** pages also provide an excellent bridge to home. Parents, mentors, tutors, or

other involved adults can review vocabulary words with students, offer their own insights about the historical and cultural background outlined, and become familiar with the ideas students will be reading about. This can help families talk to students in a meaningful way about their reading, and it gives the adults something concrete to ask about to be sure that students are reading and understanding.

The **Build Your Vocabulary** and **Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice** and **Short Answer** activities should be distributed when students begin reading the corresponding section of the novel. These literature guide pages are intended to help students comprehend and retain what they read; they should be available for students to refer to at any time during the reading.

Deepen Your Understanding is an optional extension activity that goes beyond literal questions about the book, asking students for their own ideas and opinions—and the reasons behind them. These postreading activities generally focus on literary analysis.

As reflected in its title, the **End-of-Book Test** is a postreading comprehension test to be completed after the entire novel has been read.

For your convenience, a clear **Answer Key** simplifies the scoring process.

Focus on the Book

Synopsis

John Conlan and Lorraine Jensen, sophomores at Franklin High School in Staten Island, New York, tell their tale as a “memorial epic” of their friendship with Mr. Angelo Pignati. The teenagers befriend the old man, who they affectionately refer to as the Pigman, through one of their prank telephone calls. Lonely and unhappy in their relationships with their parents, they embrace the Pigman’s kindness and generosity. One evening, as the three of them play with roller skates in the Pigman’s house, Mr. Pignati suffers a heart attack. While the Pigman is in the hospital, John and Lorraine throw a party at his house that gets out of hand. Mr. Pignati returns home to find his house a mess and his treasured glass pig collection destroyed. Although saddened, he forgives the two, but soon suffers a second and fatal heart attack. John and Lorraine are left to wonder about the role they played in the Pigman’s death.

About the Author

Born in Staten Island, New York, in 1936, Paul Zindel lived a difficult childhood. His father abandoned the family while Paul was a young child, and his mother worked a variety of jobs to support the family, causing them to move every year or two. He didn’t read as a child, as there were no books in his home, and today he claims that he writes for the people who don’t like to read. He attended Wagner College, receiving a B.S. and an M.S. in chemistry, while also taking some creative writing classes. After college, he spent ten years as a high school chemistry teacher, writing in his spare time.

His play *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* was first produced in Houston in 1965, opened off-Broadway in 1970, and moved to Broadway in 1971, winning numerous awards including the Pulitzer Prize for drama for that year. *The Pigman*, his first novel, was published in 1968. It was extremely successful and earned acclaim as one of the Notable Children’s Books of 1940–1970 by the American Library Association and one of their Best of the Best Books for

Young Adults in 1975, as well as receiving the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award in 1969.

He has written numerous other books for teenagers and young adult readers, taking much of his material from his experiences as a high school teacher and from his own struggles growing up. His novels have been praised for their honest and sensitive treatment of contemporary teenage concerns, being called “cruelly truthful about the human condition” by the Horn Book.

Historical Background

The Pigman was first published in the late 1960s, and it reflects its time, as well as universal themes of coming of age. In *The Pigman*, Lorraine lives with her single mother, who was legally separated from her father, who has since died. Although many types of families are common today, divorce, while not unusual, was not as widespread in the 1960s. Lorraine has had no contact with her father, and her mother continually badmouths him, even after his death. Although this is still sometimes the case, many divorces are more amicable today, and children often maintain relationships with both parents.

John, too, has a difficult home life. His parents are together, but they do not seem very happy. They have the outward signs of happiness—a nice home, two children, enough money for the wife to stay home—but these are all superficial. John spends his time trying to get a rise out of his parents and suffers stereotypical sibling rivalry with an older, irreproachable brother.

The roles of men and women during the period of *The Pigman* were more narrowly defined than they are today. Lorraine’s mother has to work as a single mother; she is a nurse by profession. John’s mother does not work, but spends all her energy cleaning the house and going to the beauty parlor. She defers to her husband in disciplining John. The father is clearly the head of the household. When John and Lorraine “play house” at Mr. Pignati’s while he is hospitalized, they follow similar patterns, with Lorraine cooking and John taking out the trash.

Focus Your Knowledge

- At the start of the book, Lorraine and John sign an oath to truthfully relate the facts about the experiences with Mr. Pignati. What is an oath? What does it mean to take an oath or to make an oath with someone?
- In their oath, Lorraine and John refer to their story as a memorial epic. What is an epic? What are the characteristics of an epic story? What other epics (books, movies, and so forth) are you familiar with? What characteristics do these epics have in common?
- Who do you talk with when you have a problem? What makes that person a good person to talk with?
- Should you always do everything an adult tells you to do? Is it ever all right not to listen to an adult's instructions?
- If someone is always getting in trouble, should you try to befriend that person to be a "good influence"?
- If you feel guilty about something you have done wrong, should you always admit the truth? Is it ever acceptable to lie or to keep the truth hidden?
- Should you always talk to your parents about things that are bothering you? Are there any topics or situations that you would not feel comfortable talking to your parents about?
- If your parents are unable to help you with issues that are bothering you, should you then try to talk to another adult? What other adults do you know who might be good to talk with?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

avocation—a hobby

incandescent—giving off light as a result of being heated

commemorative—something that honors a memory

subliminally—perceiving something unconsciously

repress—to hold back

infantile—lacking maturity; like an infant

monstrosity—a malformed plant or animal; a freak

compulsive—to act impulsively or irrationally

mortified—humiliated

sanitarium—an institution for the treatment of mental disorders

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Gestapo refers to the police unit of Germany's Nazi army which was infamous for its terrorist methods. The Nazis, led by Adolf Hitler, ruled Germany during World War II.

Thrombosis is the formation of a blood clot in the body's heart cavity.

Sigmund Freud (1856–1939) was an Austrian-born physician and pioneer psychoanalyst.

Homo sapiens is the scientific name for human beings.

Venus is the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

Jean Harlow (1911–1937) was a glamorous, platinum-blond American movie star. She made a number of movies throughout the 1930s but died at the early age of 26.

“Do you have Prince Albert in a can?” refers to a prank. Prince Albert was a popular brand of pipe tobacco, packaged in a can. If the answer to the question is yes, the response is “Then let him out!”

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. What do you learn about John's personality in these chapters?

2. What do you learn about Lorraine's personality in these chapters?

3. What do you think made the two of them become good friends?

4. How do John and Lorraine's home lives affect each of them?

5. Does John believe that he and Lorraine are responsible for Mr. Pignati's death?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “After my bomb **avocation**, I became the organizer of the supercolossal fruit roll.”
avocation: _____
2. “We were supposed to study **incandescent** lamps . . .”
incandescent: _____
3. “. . . but he spent the period telling us about **commemorative** stamps. He was so enthusiastic about the old days at the P.O.”
commemorative: _____
4. “I should never have let John write the first chapter because he always has to twist things **subliminally**.”
subliminally: _____
5. “It’s got to be written now before John and I mature and **repress** the whole thing.”
repress: _____
6. “I almost had him convinced that smoking was an **infantile**, destructive activity when he pointed out a picture of Freud smoking a cigar on the book’s cover.”
infantile: _____
7. “If I made a list of every comment she’s made about me, you’d think I was a **monstrosity**. I may not be Miss America, but I am not the abominable snowman either.”
monstrosity: _____
8. “Although I didn’t know John and his family until two years ago when I moved into the neighborhood, from what I’ve been able to gather I think his father was a **compulsive** alcoholic.”
compulsive: _____
9. “I was **mortified** picking it up because it fell between the seat and the window, and I was sure I’d look like an enormous cow bending over to get it.”
mortified: _____
10. “The only part that impressed me out of the whole article was about the crazy lady in the **sanitarium** who hoarded food and sheets and towels and bathrobes—the one that used to wear all the bathrobes at one time.”
sanitarium: _____

I. CHAPTERS 1–3

DURING READING

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. How many bombs did the Bathroom Bomber set off before deciding to stop?
 - a. two
 - b. twenty-three
 - c. thirty
2. Who is the Cricket?
 - a. Lorraine's mother
 - b. Miss Reillen, the school librarian
 - c. Miss King, the English teacher
3. What did Lorraine first notice about John?
 - a. his eyes
 - b. his hair
 - c. his smile
4. How did John and Lorraine meet?
 - a. They sat next to each other in class at school.
 - b. Their friend Norton introduced them.
 - c. They sat next to each other and laughed on the bus to school one morning.
5. What would Lorraine like to be one day?
 - a. a writer
 - b. a psychologist
 - c. a gourmet chef
6. What would John like to be one day?
 - a. a detective
 - b. a professional burglar
 - c. an actor
7. What "game" do John and Lorraine play twice a week?
 - a. the supercolossal fruit roll
 - b. making prank phone calls
 - c. skipping school
8. What nickname does John call his father?
 - a. Bore
 - b. Jerk
 - c. Lunatic
9. What does Dennis say to keep the old woman on the phone for over two hours?
 - a. He is her long lost grandson.
 - b. He is with the sweepstakes prize patrol.
 - c. He is about to die from a skin disease.
10. Who picks out the Pigman's phone number from the phone book?
 - a. Dennis
 - b. John
 - c. Lorraine

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. How did the narrator get the name the “Bathroom Bomber”?
2. Do you think John cared if he got caught as the Bathroom Bomber or not? Why?
3. Based on Chapter 1, what do you know about John’s personality?
4. How does Lorraine think John gets away with things?
5. What is the one big difference Lorraine believes exists between John and her?
6. Lorraine’s mother makes comments such as “You’re not a pretty girl” often. How do you think this affects Lorraine?
7. Why does Lorraine believe that John started drinking?
8. What was John’s reaction to Lorraine calling him a “lunatic” on the school bus?
9. John finds it ridiculous that his English teacher uses old slang and calls him a “card.” What do you think she means by the name?
10. Why don’t John and Lorraine play their twice-weekly game at John’s house?

Deepen Your Understanding

Paul Zindel chose to write this book from both John and Lorraine's points of view by alternating between the two narrators for each chapter. As a reader, what are some of the benefits of having the story told by two different characters? What are the possible disadvantages of having multiple narrators? What other formats might the author have used to tell this same story?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

fictitious—imaginary

philanthropy—charitable aid or actions

prevaricates—to stray from or avoid the truth

molten—melted

subconscious—an occurrence of the mind without an individual's awareness

schizophrenic—suffering from a psychotic reaction in which the person withdraws from reality

subsidize—to give financial assistance

hypertension—abnormally high blood pressure

maternal—motherly

dismember—to cut, tear, or pull off the limbs of; to separate into pieces

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Johnny Tremain is a novel by Esther Forbes about a silversmith's apprentice in Boston who becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty during the American Revolution.

Green Stamps were started by a company called Sperry & Hutchinson, which began offering stamps to grocery stores in 1896. The stores bought the stamps from S&H and gave them as bonuses with every purchase based on the amount the customer bought. The more the customer bought, the more stamps he or she received. People would save the stamps over a period of time and then use their catalog or visit a redemption center to trade the stamps for merchandise. The popularity of Green Stamps faded in the 1970s.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. Why do Norton and John hang out together if, as Lorraine says, they hate each other?
2. How does John manipulate Lorraine into going to Mr. Pignati's house?
3. If someone tells you to "make yourself at home," does that mean you should do whatever you want?
4. How important are laughter and fun in life?

II. CHAPTERS 4–5

DURING READING

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “Now, Howard Avenue is just a few blocks from where I live, so I could pretend I belonged to the Howard Avenue Civic League or some other **fictitious philanthropy**.”
fictitious: _____
philanthropy: _____
2. “He **prevaricates** for prevaricating’s sake. It’s what they call a compensation syndrome. His own life is so boring when measured against his daydreams that he can’t stand it, so he makes up things to pretend it’s exciting.”
prevaricates: _____
3. “You might also be interested in knowing that the only part of *Johnny Tremain* that John did end up reading was page forty-three—where the poor guy spills the **molten** metal on his hand and cripples it for life.”
molten: _____
4. “Mrs. Conlan goes to the store and tells the clerk he forgot to give her Green Stamps the last time she was in, and she knows very well she’s lying. It’s a kind of **subconscious, schizophrenic** fibbing, if you ask me, and if those parents don’t have guilt complexes, I don’t know who has.”
subconscious: _____
schizophrenic: _____
5. “We can tell him the L & J Fund is intended to **subsidize** writers and actors if you want.”
subsidize: _____
6. “Mother, your **hypertension** is showing.”
hypertension: _____
7. “Well, that severed **maternal** relations for the afternoon, and I had no intention of waiting for Bore to come home.”
maternal: _____
8. “He could’ve been some psycho with an electric carving knife who’d **dismember** our bodies and wouldn’t get caught until our teeth clogged up the sewer or something like that.”
dismember: _____

II. CHAPTERS 4–5

DURING READING

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. What is the name of the fake charity John and Lorraine make up?
 - a. The Howard Avenue Civic League
 - b. Save the Children
 - c. The L & J Fund
2. How much of a donation does Mr. Pignati agree to give?
 - a. ten dollars
 - b. twenty dollars
 - c. one hundred dollars
3. John wants the money to buy beer. How much does a six-pack of beer cost?
 - a. \$1.25
 - b. \$3.50
 - c. \$5.99
4. Why is John's father going to talk to John when he gets home from work?
 - a. John's father is upset about John's poor grades at school.
 - b. He wants John to get a job.
 - c. He is angry that John put glue in the phone lock.
5. What is the most striking thing about Mr. Pignati's appearance?
 - a. his beer stomach
 - b. his bald head
 - c. his smile
6. What does Mr. Pignati offer John and Lorraine when they first arrive at his house?
 - a. cookies
 - b. wine
 - c. coffee
7. About how long does Mr. Pignati say his wife has been out of town?
 - a. one week
 - b. one month
 - c. one year
8. How many items does Mr. Pignati teach John and Lorraine to memorize?
 - a. five
 - b. ten
 - c. twenty
9. Where does Mr. Pignati ask John and Lorraine to go with him?
 - a. to the zoo
 - b. to the grocery store
 - c. to the museum
10. What kind of collection does Mr. Pignati have?
 - a. war memorabilia
 - b. pig figurines
 - c. commemorative stamps

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What is Norton's nickname, and how did he get it?
2. Who is the only one who laughed at Mr. Pignati's jokes?
3. Where does Mr. Pignati say his wife is?
4. According to Lorraine, why does John lie easily?
5. Who is Kenneth?
6. Why does John get a Pepsi to drink when his mother tells him to get a glass of milk?
7. Who is Aunt Ahra?
8. How does John use the phone, even though it is locked?
9. What did Mr. Pignati do for a living before he retired?
10. How did the pig collection get started?

Deepen Your Understanding

John keeps pushing Lorraine until he convinces her to visit Mr. Pignati and get the money. Has anyone ever tried to convince you to do something you didn't want to do or that you felt was wrong? How did you react? Did you go along with it or choose not to? What were the results of your actions? How did you feel about your choice afterwards? If that situation hasn't happened to you, how do you think you would react under similar circumstances?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

distortion—the twisting or changing from proper shape; misrepresentation

psychoanalysis—the practice of a specific branch of human psychology

mongrel—an animal, especially a dog, resulting from various mixed breeding

omens—signs of warning of future good or evil

antagonistic—to oppose or actively compete with another

nocturnal—active at night

voluptuous—full; appealing

perpetual—never ending; continuing with disruption

hemoglobin—a substance contained in the body's red blood cells

ingrate—an ungrateful person

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Ben Franklin sunglasses refers to Ben Franklin (1706–1790), the famous American statesman, diplomat, author, scientist and printer. He wore small, round, wire-rimmed eyeglasses.

The **ASPCA**, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1896, that works to educate and inform the public on animal welfare issues. Their mission is to promote humane principles, prevent cruelty, and alleviate fear, pain, and suffering in animals.

The **Staten Island Ferry** has been running between the boroughs of Staten Island and Manhattan in New York City since 1905. It carries over 19 million passengers a year on the 5.2 mile ride. While the ferry costs a few dollars for cars, it is free for people on foot or with bicycles.

LSD, or lysergic acid diethylamide, is a hallucinogenic drug that intensifies sensory perceptions and produces hallucinations, mood changes, and changes in the sense of time. It also can cause restlessness, acute anxiety, and, occasionally, depression.

Giants in the Earth is a novel by Ole Rolvaag about a Norwegian pioneer family struggling to make a new life in America in the Dakota Territory.

Macbeth is one of William Shakespeare's (1564–1616) great tragic plays.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. How does the relationship between the young people and Mr. Pignati change after they go to the zoo?
2. Why does Mr. Pignati not tell the truth about his wife?
3. How will John and Lorraine react to knowing that Mr. Pignati lied?
4. Why do you think Mr. Pignati wants to buy John and Lorraine so many things?
5. Why does Lorraine call the three of them “three funny little monkeys”? How are they like the monkeys they see in the pet department? How are they like the monkeys they visit in the zoo?

III. CHAPTERS 6–8

DURING READING

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “He raised his voice, which is typical when he needs to delay a second because he’s at a loss for his next **distortion**.”
distortion: _____
2. “Actually, I think her problems are so deep-rooted she’d need three years of intensive **psychoanalysis**.”
psychoanalysis: _____
3. “The closest I ever came to having a pet was an old **mongrel** that used to hang around the neighborhood.”
mongrel: _____
4. “I realize now there were plenty of bad **omens** within the next few minutes.”
omens: _____
5. “I mean, that’s how **antagonistic** she was. A real devoted antagonist. You could tell she hated kids—just hated them.”
antagonistic: _____
6. “. . . we went into the **nocturnal** room of the Mammal Building. The whole room is pretty dark so you can see these animals that only come out at night, like owls and pottos and cute little vampire bats.”
nocturnal: _____
7. “If you let her, Lorraine would eat until she dropped, and if she keeps going at that rate, I’m afraid she’s going to be somewhat more than **voluptuous**. She could end up just plain fat.”
voluptuous: _____
8. “Once I ran away from Lorraine and the others and hid in a part of the cemetery that didn’t have **perpetual** care. That’s the part where no one pays to keep the grass cut.”
perpetual: _____
9. “Maybe one of the molecules of iron from the corpse’s **hemoglobin** is in the strand of grass next to my ear.”
hemoglobin: _____
10. “Do you mean *real* whipped cream or that horrible, prepared-mix, fake whipped cream? ‘Don’t give the **ingrate** anything.’”
ingrate: _____

III. CHAPTERS 6–8

DURING READING

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. What is Lorraine's mother's occupation?
 - a. a nurse
 - b. a secretary
 - c. a saleswoman
2. Which of the following snake facts is true?
 - a. Some snakes have stingers in their tails.
 - b. Snakes can hypnotize their prey.
 - c. Snakes cannot close their eyes.
3. Who is Mr. Pignati's best friend?
 - a. his wife
 - b. Bobo
 - c. John
4. What is scungilli?
 - a. an Italian dish made with snails
 - b. Mr. Pignati's nickname for his wife
 - c. a rare illness from which Mr. Pignati's wife suffered
5. Who is Conchetta?
 - a. the gorilla at the zoo
 - b. John's mother
 - c. Mr. Pignati's wife
6. What does John find upstairs at Mr. Pignati's house that he wants to know more about?
 - a. a credit card
 - b. his wife's funeral bill
 - c. a childhood picture of his wife in her confirmation dress
7. What "delicacies" does John choose in the fancy-food section at Beekman's?
 - a. fish heads and frogs legs
 - b. popcorn and jelly beans
 - c. tiger's milk and chocolate-covered ants
8. Why does Lorraine pretend to be Mr. Pignati's niece?
 - a. She isn't allowed on the Staten Island Ferry without an adult relative.
 - b. She feels bad that she told the saleswoman that she wasn't his daughter.
 - c. She doesn't want people on the subway to think she is on a date with John.
9. Why does Lorraine insist on size 11 stockings when she probably wears a size 7½?
 - a. She likes them baggy.
 - b. She wants to give them to her mother.
 - c. She thinks she'll grow into them.
10. What do John and Mr. Pignati decide to do in the department store while Lorraine is in the ladies' room?
 - a. buy roller skates
 - b. let the pet monkeys loose
 - c. try on Lorraine's new stockings

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What specifically happened to Lorraine's father?
2. How does Lorraine's mother make extra money from Solvies? What else does she do that is dishonest?
3. What are the three "bad omens" at the zoo?
4. How does John's father react when John tells him he is going to be an actor? What does John's father want him to do with his life?
5. How does John discover that Mr. Pignati's wife is dead?
6. What is Lorraine's mother's attitude toward men?
7. Why does Lorraine refuse to let John go to Beekman's alone with Mr. Pignati?
8. What is the next bad omen Lorraine experiences?
9. How does John react when the floorwalker tells them not to feed the monkeys?
10. Lorraine feels torn over getting the roller skates. What are the two opposing ideas that are pulling at her?

Deepen Your Understanding

Choose one of the three scenes in this section: at the zoo, in Mr. Pignati's home, or at the department store. Rewrite the scene from Mr. Pignati's point of view, including all of his thoughts and feelings about events that take place and his blossoming friendship with the two young people.

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

putrid—rotten; foul-smelling; corrupt
paranoia—a mental psychosis marked by feelings of persecution
fixated—focused attention on
mulled—pondered; thought about
interrogating—questioning formally
louse—one of a variety of small biting or sucking insects that live on animals, including human beings (plural form: *lice*)

mundane—typical; ordinary
graft—unethical use of one's position to gain profit or advantages
morgue—a place where dead bodies are kept until identified and/or burial arrangements have been made
congealed—solidified or jelled

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Cro-Magnon man is an early form of modern human beings whose skeletal remains were found in the Cro-Magnon cave in southern France.

Mongolia is a country in North Central Asia located between Russia and China.

Transylvania is a region of western Romania. It is infamous as the home of Count Dracula.

Malaria is a disease transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. In tropical regions, people sometimes choose to sleep under a malaria net, a fine mesh net placed around a person's bed to prevent the person from being bitten by mosquitoes.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. How do John's parents and Mr. Pignati differ in their attitudes toward and interactions with John?
2. Based on John and Norton's conversation, do you believe Norton will visit Mr. Pignati?
3. Are there some lies that you should never admit to having told?
4. How does Mr. Pignati's description of his marriage compare to what John and Lorraine know from their parents?
5. How is "magic" or fantasy important in John's and Lorraine's lives?

IV. CHAPTERS 9–11

DURING READING

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “How come you’re going over there all the time?” Norton finally blurted out as he opened up a bottle of a **putrid** brand of beer . . .”
putrid: _____
2. “It’s like **paranoia** in reverse when people are really calling you insulting things and you deliberately pretend they aren’t.”
paranoia: _____
3. “She never talks about him now—just how awful men are in general. She’s what the psychologists call **fixated** on the subject.”
fixated: _____
4. “She **mulled** that over a few seconds, but she had to get to work on time and couldn’t devote her full energies to **interrogating**.”
mulled: _____
interrogating: _____
5. “‘You **louse!**’ I heard a call from the kitchen as I stuffed another little square of ants into my mouth. They really were rather tasty.”
louse: _____
6. “John got particularly wild at one point when Mr. Pignati was *It* and there weren’t many obstacles you could skate around on the ground floor except the kitchen table, and that got **mundane** after awhile.”
mundane: _____
7. “[The police] finally left after they had a good look around the place. I mean, the furnishings were enough to make anybody think a pack of wild gypsies lived there, but they were probably anxious to get along on the rounds of the local bars and collect their **graft** for the week.”
graft: _____
8. “This Transylvanian-looking nun-nurse made us sign our names in a book and gave us a couple of passes so everyone at the hospital would know we had permission to be there and were not a couple of ghouls raiding the **morgue**.”
morgue: _____
9. “I was planning to put the TV on, and I was mad as @#\$\$% because I knew the spaghetti was congealing in the pot. I don’t like spaghetti when it’s normal, let alone **congealed**.”
congealed: _____

IV. CHAPTERS 9–11

DURING READING

*Check Your Understanding**Multiple Choice*

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Where does Norton invite John to have a beer?
 - a. the cemetery
 - b. the zoo
 - c. the woods
2. Who is D.D.?
 - a. John and Lorraine's friend from school
 - b. Lorraine's father
 - c. a man Norton steals for
3. Who is known as the screech owl?
 - a. Norton
 - b. Lorraine
 - c. D.D.
4. Which character from Mr. Pignati's story do both John and Lorraine pick as the most responsible for the wife's death?
 - a. the assassin
 - b. the lover
 - c. the boatman
5. How does Mr. Pignati get hurt?
 - a. shoveling snow from the walkway
 - b. playing tag in his roller skates
 - c. visiting Bobo at the zoo during a blizzard
6. Where did John and Lorraine get the gladiolas they give Mr. Pignati?
 - a. the cemetery
 - b. John's mother's kitchen table
 - c. the supermarket while John was buying cigarettes
7. How many flowers do they give him?
 - a. ten
 - b. eleven
 - c. twelve
8. What favor does Mr. Pignati ask John and Lorraine to do for him while he is in the hospital?
 - a. clean the house
 - b. buy him more chocolate-covered ants
 - c. visit Bobo
9. What does Lorraine cook for dinner?
 - a. spaghetti
 - b. meatloaf
 - c. lasagna
10. Who do John and Lorraine toast at dinner?
 - a. themselves
 - b. Mr. Pignati
 - c. the Pigman

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why is Norton interested in what John is doing at the “old guy’s” house?
2. How does John get Norton to stop saying screech owl?
3. How did the Bore influence John to start drinking?
4. What lie does Lorraine tell her mother about where she got the money to buy the stockings?
5. Why had Lorraine’s mother filed for a legal separation from her father?
6. Why is Mr. Pignati feeling sad when John and Lorraine arrive?
7. What secrets do John, Lorraine, and Mr. Pignati admit to each other?
8. Why do John and Lorraine decide finally to tell the Pigman the truth?
9. Who are John and Lorraine pretending to be when they dress up and eat dinner?
10. What happens between John and Lorraine that may change their relationship?

Deepen Your Understanding

After Mr. Pignati tells the story about the unfaithful wife and the assassin, he explains that each character represents a specific value. Lorraine comments that her list of importance is accurate: magic, love, fun, sex, and money. The order of importance of John's values is magic, sex, money, fun, and love. How would you rank these values in terms of importance in Mr. Pignati's life? How would you rank them for your own life? Why?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

leprosy—a contagious disease occurring almost exclusively in tropical and subtropical regions, characterized by loss of sensation and, eventually, loss of body parts such as the fingers and tip of the nose

voltage—the force produced by an electric current

antifermenting—to undo the effects of the chemical reaction that occurs when sugars are combined with yeast

amendments—improvements; corrections; revisions

succinct—expressed clearly in few words; concise

hovel—a small dwelling in miserable condition

maladjusted—the inability to adjust personality needs to the demands of the environment

hors d'oeuvres—the French word for appetizers usually served before a meal

curvature—a curving or bending, especially an abnormal one

oscilloscope—an instrument that measures changes in the amount of electric current

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

The **U.S. Constitution** is the foundation of the United States' system of government. It is a document explaining how the federal government will be organized and run and includes the Bill of Rights, a list of freedoms guaranteed to all citizens.

Doris Day (1924–) is an American singer and movie actress who was popular in the 1950s and early 1960s. She has recently been active in animal causes and spoke out about AIDS when her longtime friend, actor Rock Hudson, died of the disease.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. When John says he's inviting a "few intimate friends" over "for a quiet little drink," do you think he knows that the party will become more than that?

2. How does the party get out of control?

3. Do John and Lorraine take advantage of Mr. Pignati?

4. How do you think John and Lorraine feel when they see Mr. Pignati at the front door?

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. "... the kids aren't allowed to use the public telephone at Franklin High unless they get a special pass. And even then it's got to be to call your mother to say that the school nurse has just diagnosed **leprosy** or something."
leprosy: _____
2. "She sounded very nice when I told her I was his daughter, and she tried to explain something about this high-**voltage** machine they've got which is supposed to come in handy if a second attack does come."
voltage: _____
3. "Wednesday after school we stopped by the house for some beer and pretzels, but I knew I wasn't going to get out that night because my mother was on the warpath over **antifermenting** the kitchen."
antifermenting: _____
4. "Read the **amendments** to the Constitution and condense the meaning of each into one **succinct** sentence."
amendments: _____
succinct: _____
5. "I'm only doing it because the Pigman's coming home tomorrow, and this **hovel** better look good."
hovel: _____
6. "I knew something was bothering him - and I don't mean the dishes or the garbage. If I didn't know how **maladjusted** John is at times, I would have simply walked out of that house and not spoken to him again as long as I lived."
maladjusted: _____
7. "Once she started turning out the **hors d'oeuvres**, she gained momentum. In fact she started eating every other one she made."
hors d'oeuvres: _____
8. "She's got a lovely voice, but her memory is like that of a titmouse with **curvature** of the brain."
curvature: _____
9. "At the top I opened the door on the left, and sure enough there was good old Norton putting the guts of this junky old **oscilloscope** back in its case and getting ready to cart it out of the house."
oscilloscope: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. How does the Bore decide to handle John not doing his homework?
 - a. He grounds him.
 - b. He calls his teachers for a conference.
 - c. He checks his homework every night.
2. Why don't John and Lorraine go to the Pigman's house on Thursday while he is in the hospital?
 - a. They have to go to the library.
 - b. Lorraine's mother makes her clean the house.
 - c. John and Lorraine are tired of getting into arguments.
3. What does John complain about at breakfast?
 - a. no orange juice
 - b. burnt toast and bad coffee
 - c. no more of his favorite cereal
4. What does John refuse to do after breakfast that he later agrees to do?
 - a. take out the trash
 - b. wash the dishes
 - c. call Mr. Pignati at the hospital
5. What does Lorraine notice about John's behavior during the week after they kiss?
 - a. He starts ignoring her.
 - b. He combs his hair, wears shaving lotion, and fights with her.
 - c. He keeps trying to kiss her again.
6. Who is first to arrive at the party?
 - a. Dennis
 - b. Norton
 - c. Jane Appling
7. Why does Jack Brahn decide not to come to the party?
 - a. He is nervous about getting in trouble with his parents.
 - b. He doesn't want to get in a fight with Norton.
 - c. Janice Dickery is going to be there.
8. Why does the party get significantly louder after 8:00?
 - a. The dance at St. Mary's Hall lets out.
 - b. The band arrives.
 - c. John starts roller-skating in the house.
9. Why is Norton angry when he arrives at the party?
 - a. He hadn't been invited.
 - b. They are out of beer.
 - c. He got lost looking for the right address.
10. What does John find Norton stealing from the house?
 - a. the pig collection
 - b. the oscilloscope
 - c. John's roller skates

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. Why did Mr. Pignati have to stay in the hospital for at least seventy-two hours?
2. Why is John in such a crabby mood?
3. What does Lorraine mean when she says that John thought of her as a “dreamboat with a leak in it”?
4. When John and Lorraine clean the house, why don’t they clean the pig room?
5. What is the omen of death that Lorraine experiences?
6. Why does John want Jane Appling to know he’s lying when he says the house belongs to his uncle?
7. How does Lorraine convince her mother to let her stay at the party?
8. Why does Lorraine get jealous during the party?
9. Why does John get in a fight?
10. What happens to John after he sees Mr. Pignati in the doorway?

Deepen Your Understanding

Symbolism in literature is the idea that a person, an object, an image, or an event represents not only its actual meaning but also an abstract idea or concept. For example, a red rose often symbolizes the idea of romantic love. What do the broken pigs at the party symbolize in the story? In other words, what larger idea do they represent? What are some other important objects in the story? What may they symbolize?

Focus Your Reading

Vocabulary Words to Know

Study the following words and definitions. You will meet these words in your reading. Be sure to jot down in your word journal any other unknown words from the reading.

incongruous—not corresponding;
disagreeing; inappropriate

forsaken—to have given up or abandoned

audibly—loud enough to be heard

proficiency—the ability to perform an art
or a skill with correctness and ease

wrath—violent, resentful anger; rage

canopy—a cloth covering held over a
person or an object for protection or
ornamentation

protruding—pushing or thrusting outward;
projecting

convent—a community bound by vows to a
religious life

attache case—a briefcase resembling a small
suitcase

trespassing—invading the privacy, time, or
attention of another

Things to Know

Here is some background information about this section of the book.

Limburger cheese is a variety of cheese known for its strong flavor and odor.

Tibet, located in Central Asia, was once a nonviolent independent country ruled by the Dalai Lama, the head of the Buddhist religion. The region is now occupied by China.

Focus Your Reading

Questions to Think About

The following questions will help you understand the meaning of what you read. You do not have to write out the answers to these questions. Instead, look at them before you begin reading, and think about them while you are reading.

1. How might Mr. Pignati feel when he first walks in the house?

2. Lorraine tells her mother that she didn't do anything wrong. Do you agree?

3. How does John feel about Mr. Pignati?

4. What does John mean when he says that they are all "baffled baboons concentrating on all the wrong things"?

VI. CHAPTERS 14–15

DURING READING

Build Your Vocabulary

Read the sentences below. On the line, write your definition of the word in bold type. Then, on another sheet of paper, use that word in a new sentence of your own.

1. “He was so much taller and thinner than the other one that the two of them together looked rather **incongruous**.”
incongruous: _____
2. “Would he think we had **forsaken** him and deliberately ripped his wife’s clothes—viciously broken the pigs?”
forsaken: _____
3. “I gasped **audibly**.”
audibly: _____
4. “One of the attendants was washing the sea-lion manure off the middle platform of the pool, and at least he was able to do that with a certain degree of **proficiency**.”
proficiency: _____
5. “She really looked like the **wrath** of God, and I was too scared to go over and buy a package of peanuts for myself.”
wrath: _____
6. “We squeezed into the last car, and the same blond boy was driving again. There was quite a wind even though it had warmed up enough to start the snow melting, and it made the frilly **canopy** on the cars snap loudly.”
canopy: _____
7. “Then came the tigers and bears, the two hippos who were inside for the season, and the eight-ton bull elephant, the only part of which we could see being the long trunk **protruding** from the doorway of his barn.”
protruding: _____
8. “If she had gotten involved as a witness after all that had happened, I knew her mother would’ve shipped her off to a Tibetan **convent** for ninety-six years.”
convent: _____
9. “To @#\$% with Kenneth. To @#\$% with marching along with an **attache case** swinging in the breeze.”
attache case: _____
10. “I wanted to tell her he had no right going backward. When you grow up, you’re not supposed to go back. **Trespassing**—that’s what he had done.”
trespassing: _____

Check Your Understanding

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why won't the police officers let Lorraine talk to Mr. Pignati?
 - a. He is busy cleaning up the house.
 - b. He is upstairs crying.
 - c. He is so angry at her for what happened.
2. What makes the police officer look sorry that he brought Lorraine home?
 - a. Lorraine's mother slapping her
 - b. Lorraine's crying
 - c. the mess he sees inside when Lorraine's mother opens the door
3. Whose forgiveness does Lorraine want?
 - a. her mother's
 - b. John's
 - c. the Pigman's
4. What would wake Lorraine up at night when she was younger?
 - a. her mother crying in the kitchen
 - b. her parents fighting
 - c. her nightmares about coffins and death
5. How do John's parents respond to what has happened?
 - a. They kick him out of the house.
 - b. They send him to a psychiatrist.
 - c. They have the police officers arrest him.
6. Where do John and Lorraine ask Mr. Pignati to meet them?
 - a. at the zoo
 - b. at his house
 - c. at the supermarket so they can replace all the food people ate
7. Who pays for the train ride to the monkey house?
 - a. Lorraine
 - b. John
 - c. Mr. Pignati
8. Why is Bobo's cage empty?
 - a. He has been moved to a warmer cage for the winter.
 - b. He is inside being bathed.
 - c. He died of pneumonia the week before.
9. How do the monkeys react to Mr. Pignati's collapse?
 - a. They begin to cry.
 - b. They become silent.
 - c. They start making noise and pulling against the bars of their cages.
10. As John waits with Mr. Pignati for the ambulance, who does Mr. Pignati remind him of?
 - a. Bore
 - b. Bobo
 - c. Norton

Check Your Understanding

Short Answer

Write a short answer for each question.

1. What scares Lorraine the most about going home to her mother?
2. What is Lorraine's mother's first comment when Lorraine arrives at home with the police officers?
3. After talking with her mother, how does Lorraine know that her mother will never really understand?
4. Why does Lorraine believe it is important and natural to "play"?
5. Why does Lorraine wear her Ben Franklin sunglasses to the zoo even though it isn't sunny outside?
6. At the zoo, how do John and Lorraine try to make up for what they did? What are some examples?
7. What happens to Mr. Pignati after he hears about Bobo?
8. Why does Lorraine say, "We murdered him"?
9. How had John, Lorraine, and Mr. Pignati all trespassed, according to John?
10. What does John mean when he says that something died inside of them when Mr. Pignati died?

Deepen Your Understanding

If the book had a Chapter 16, what would happen in it? Does Mr. Pignati's death strengthen John and Lorraine's friendship, or does it drive them apart? Does their friendship blossom into a romance? Does John pursue his dream of becoming an actor or does he take over his father's Wall Street business with his brother? Does Lorraine become a writer? Is she ever able to get through to her mother? Write at least one page explaining what you think will happen next.

End-of-Book Test

Circle the letter of the best answer to each question.

1. Why do John and Lorraine decide to write the book?
 - a. They need the extra credit for school.
 - b. They want to explain and remember their experiences with the Pigman.
 - c. They want their parents to understand them better.
2. According to Lorraine, why does John get away with all of his pranks at school?
 - a. He's extremely handsome.
 - b. Teachers think he's the class clown.
 - c. He always blames someone else.
3. Why does Lorraine believe that she is not very attractive?
 - a. She gets teased at school about how she looks.
 - b. Her mother tells her that she is not very pretty.
 - c. John tells her that he would only date her if she were more attractive.
4. During their first phone call, what do John and Lorraine tell the Pigman about why they are calling?
 - a. They are conducting a phone survey.
 - b. They are his long lost niece and nephew.
 - c. They are collecting money for a charity, the L & J fund.
5. What does Mr. Pignati first tell John and Lorraine about his wife?
 - a. She passed away a few years ago.
 - b. She is visiting his sister in California.
 - c. She loves his Italian cooking, especially his scungilli.
6. Why does John put glue in the telephone lock at his house?
 - a. He is angry at his father for putting the lock on the phone.
 - b. He doesn't want to get a job at his father's Wall Street business.
 - c. He thinks his brother, Kenneth, would think it is funny.
7. How does John convince Lorraine to go to Mr. Pignati's house on the first visit?
 - a. He reminds her of how much beer they can buy with the money they would receive.
 - b. He promises that if she goes with him, he will buy her her favorite snack.
 - c. He says the old man is lonely.
8. How did Mr. Pignati start collecting pigs?
 - a. His parents started him collecting them when he was a young boy.
 - b. He gave one to his wife when they were dating.
 - c. He bought one at Beekman's department store and buys one each time he goes back to the store.
9. Where is Lorraine's father?
 - a. He passed away six years ago.
 - b. He left the family when Lorraine was young, and they don't know where he is.
 - c. He is usually at his job on Wall Street.
10. Why does Mr. Pignati want John and Lorraine to meet him at the zoo?
 - a. He thinks it would be fun if they got to skip school for the day.
 - b. He wants them to return the \$10.
 - c. He wants to introduce them to his best friend, Bobo the baboon.

(continued)

End-of-Book Test (continued)

11. What does John discover about Mr. Pignati's wife?
 - a. She left him for another man and isn't coming back.
 - b. She wants him to move out to California with her.
 - c. She died a few years ago.
12. Why does Mr. Pignati take John and Lorraine to Beekman's department store?
 - a. John finds the Pigman's Beekman's charge card upstairs in the house and asks about it.
 - b. He thinks John and Lorraine need some new clothes.
 - c. He was out of frogs' legs and chocolate-covered ants.
13. What animals did Lorraine think the three of them resembled as they left the department store with their roller skates?
 - a. pigs
 - b. snakes
 - c. monkeys
14. What is Norton's interest in Mr. Pignati's house?
 - a. He needs a place to have a big party.
 - b. He is jealous of everything that Mr. Pignati has bought John and Lorraine.
 - c. He wants to know if there is anything worth stealing.
15. What causes Mr. Pignati's heart attack?
 - a. knowing that Bobo is getting older
 - b. walking up the stairs in his roller skates
 - c. eating too many frogs' legs and chocolate-covered ants
16. Why do John and Lorraine start fighting while the Pigman is in the hospital?
 - a. They don't know how to treat each other after they share a kiss.
 - b. They miss Mr. Pignati and are worried about his health.
 - c. John wants to skip school and stay in Mr. Pignati's house.
17. How does Mr. Pignati's pig collection get broken at the party?
 - a. Norton breaks them after John stops him from stealing the oscilloscope.
 - b. John and Melissa Dumas roller-skate into them while dancing.
 - c. Dennis and some of the band members want to show off their juggling skills.
18. Why won't Lorraine beg forgiveness from her mother when the police bring her home from the party?
 - a. She is angry at her mother for slapping her.
 - b. She thinks her mother should have known that she was lying about what she was doing that night.
 - c. It is the Pigman's forgiveness she wants, not her mother's.
19. What does Mr. Pignati do when Bobo dies?
 - a. He cries.
 - b. He gets angry at the zookeeper.
 - c. He collapses on the floor and dies.
20. Why does Lorraine believe that she and John killed Mr. Pignati?
 - a. They brought him out in the cold in his weakened condition.
 - b. They made him sad by having a party at his house then brought him to the zoo to find out that Bobo died.
 - c. They had him chase them around the house in his roller skates.

Answer Key

I. CHAPTERS 1–3

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of *Focus Your Reading*, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. c |
| 2. b | 7. b |
| 3. a | 8. a |
| 4. c | 9. c |
| 5. a | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. He set off homemade bombs in the school bathroom.
2. John didn't care if he got caught; otherwise, he would not have set off so many. Also, he continued to set off the bombs even after other students found out it was him and began calling him the "Bathroom Bomber."
3. He likes to play jokes. He hates school and doesn't like authority figures.
4. because he is extremely handsome
5. The difference is compassion. Lorraine has compassion, and although John has it too, he doesn't show it.
6. They make her feel badly about herself, especially her physical appearance.
7. John's father was a heavy drinker, which taught John to believe drinking makes a person mature.
8. He replies that he is a lunatic.
9. She meant that she found him humorous.
10. because it would make his mother nervous if they got anything dirty and because his father put a lock on the phone

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

II. CHAPTERS 4–5

Build Your Vocabulary

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of *Focus Your Reading*, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. b |
| 2. a | 7. b |
| 3. a | 8. b |
| 4. c | 9. a |
| 5. c | 10. b |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. His nickname is the Marshmallow Kid because he was caught stealing a bag of marshmallows.
2. His wife laughed at his jokes.
3. He says that his wife is in California visiting his sister.
4. She believes that his own life is so boring compared to his fantasies that he makes things up to add excitement.
5. Kenneth is John's older brother who works on Wall Street.
6. He does the opposite of whatever she says to annoy and frazzle her.
7. She was an elderly relative who died in John's house. He tells his mother that Aunt Ahra's ghost put the glue in the phone lock.
8. He presses the connection button ten times, and he asks to be connected to Lorraine's number because he has no arms and has a phone attached to his head for emergencies.
9. He was an electrician.
10. He gave a pig to his wife before they were married to remind her of him.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

III. CHAPTERS 6–8***Build Your Vocabulary***

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of *Focus Your Reading*, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. a | 6. a |
| 2. c | 7. c |
| 3. b | 8. b |
| 4. a | 9. b |
| 5. c | 10. a |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. He left 15 years earlier when her parents were legally separated. Then he died 6 years before the story takes place.
2. When one of her patients dies, she calls Solvies, an undertaker, who gives her \$10 for sending the business to him. She also takes food from the patients' homes.
3. The woman selling peanuts was mean to her, a peacock attacked her, and then a boy at the bat cage was staring at her.
4. He called John a "jackass" and told John that he can take over his business at the Stock Exchange, splitting the business with his brother, Kenneth.
5. He finds Conchetta's funeral bill.
6. She distrusts men because she had a failed marriage and some of the male patients she works for flirt with her and hit on her.
7. She believes that John would have Mr. Pignati buy him half the store because he's not used to people buying him things.
8. A woman in the subway is talking to herself about how God is telling her that death is coming.
9. Whenever the floorwalker half turned around, John pretended to throw popcorn at the monkeys.
10. One side of her says, "Don't let the nice old man waste his money," while the other side says, "Enjoy doing something absolutely absurd."

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

IV. CHAPTERS 9–11***Build Your Vocabulary***

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of *Focus Your Reading*, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. a | 6. a |
| 2. c | 7. b |
| 3. b | 8. c |
| 4. c | 9. a |
| 5. b | 10. c |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

1. He wants to know if there is anything worth stealing.
2. John makes a crack about some marshmallows, referring to Norton's nickname, "The Marshmallow Kid."
3. He made comments such as, "Johnny wants a sip of beer" and "That kid's going to be a real drinker." John feels that it was the only time he got attention.
4. She said she walked to school a few days instead of taking the bus and skipped lunch a few times.
5. She found out she had a sexually transmitted disease and Lorraine's father had a girlfriend.
6. He is sad because Bobo wouldn't eat the chocolate bar that he had offered him that day, and he is realizing that Bobo is getting old.
7. John and Lorraine admit that they were never charity workers, and Mr. Pignati admits that Conchetta is dead.
8. He has been so nice that they want to be honest with him.
9. Mr. Pignati and his wife
10. They kiss for the first time.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

V. CHAPTERS 12–13***Build Your Vocabulary***

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary Words to Know section of *Focus Your Reading*, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. c | 6. a |
| 2. a | 7. c |
| 3. b | 8. b |
| 4. a | 9. a |
| 5. b | 10. b |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

- The first seventy-two hours after a heart attack is the danger period when a person might have a second heart attack and die.
- He's been crabby since he and Lorraine kissed.
- She means that John thought she would make a good girlfriend but that she's not perfect.
- They thought of the pig room as almost religious and thought it best to leave it alone.
- She has a dream about the pig figures on an opening coffin.
- He wants people wondering how he got it.
- She says she's at Jane's house and they will do their homework together. Then Jane gets on the phone to back up the story.
- Melissa Dumas is wearing her roller skates and dancing with John.
- He catches Norton stealing the oscilloscope and later breaking the pig figurines.
- He passes out on the floor.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

VI. CHAPTERS 14–15***Build Your Vocabulary***

Wording of definitions may vary. Students may remember the definitions given in the Vocabulary

Words to Know section of *Focus Your Reading*, or they may refine the definitions based on the context of the sentence and the reading overall. Students' new sentences will vary.

Check Your Understanding: Multiple Choice

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. a |
| 2. a | 7. b |
| 3. c | 8. c |
| 4. a | 9. c |
| 5. b | 10. a |

Check Your Understanding: Short Answer

- She is scared of her mother seeing her in the ruffled dress.
- She asks, "Where are your clothes?"
- Her mother asks if Mr. Pignati tried anything with her sexually.
- She believes that playing is how Nature prepares people for later in life.
- She doesn't want to look into anyone's eyes.
- They buy peanuts for Bobo, and John pays for the train ride to the monkey house.
- He collapses on the floor and dies.
- She feels responsible for the party and for bringing Mr. Pignati to the zoo.
- Mr. Pignati trespassed by playing like he was a kid, and John and Lorraine by taking advantage of the old man's kindness and generosity.
- Answers may vary. Students will probably answer that their innocence dies when Mr. Pignati dies.

Deepen Your Understanding

Answers will vary.

END-OF-BOOK TEST

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 11. c |
| 2. a | 12. a |
| 3. b | 13. c |
| 4. c | 14. c |
| 5. b | 15. b |
| 6. a | 16. a |
| 7. c | 17. a |
| 8. b | 18. c |
| 9. a | 19. c |
| 10. c | 20. b |